



September 2012 Special Edition ACT Plus Writing



Welcome to the ACT Plus Writing Special Edition of JUMP, a preview of important information, dates, and materials/emails Montana high schools will soon begin receiving from ACT.

This edition is published in advance of the first full implementation of the ACT Plus Writing available to (a) all Montana public high school juniors (b) on a school day (c) in their high schools (d) without cost. This full implementation follows a pilot implementation in the 2011-12 school year.

In August 2012, informational letters regarding the ACT Plus Writing were sent to all System Superintendents, High School Principals, and System Test Coordinators. Included with those letters was a sample letter to send to all families and students in grades 9, 10, and 11.

Although the test is for grade 11 students, it is important that students and families in lower grades know what to expect. Please put the sample on the school letterhead and distribute it as soon as possible.

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2013 Testing Dates

ACT Plus Writing Test Date	Tuesday, April 23, 2013
ACT Plus Writing Accommodation Test Dates	April 23 – May 7, 2013
ACT Plus Writing Makeup	May 7, 2013

MontCAS ACT Plus Writing

- All participants must be enrolled juniors at the time of testing.
- OPI will use AIM data to order testing materials including barcode labels. AIM must be updated by **January 25, 2013** for barcode labels to be ordered. Students who enroll after January 25 will also participate but instead of having barcode labels, information will need to be bubbled on the answer booklets. Directions for bubbling will be included with testing materials. Additional materials may be ordered prior to testing.
- The ACT Plus Writing is comprised of five sections
 - English (45 minutes)
 - Mathematics (60 minutes)
 - Reading (35 minutes)
 - Science (35 minutes)
 - Writing (30 minutes)
- Test forms are the same length and difficulty as those traditionally administered on Saturdays.
- The scores are equivalent to those achieved under other ACT administrations.
- Administration must meet specific requirements. Training will be provided.

Upcoming Materials

- **The week of September 24, 2012**
 - ACT will send materials to principals to initiate the process to establish their schools as test sites.
 - ACT will email system representatives a link to access materials.
- Using an online system, the principals will complete basic contact information for themselves and for their schools.
- Principals will also be asked to identify and appoint three key testing staff: the Test Supervisor (TS), the Back-Up Test Supervisor (BU), and the Test Accommodations Coordinator (TAC).
- The test center packets will include:
 - Packets to distribute to the three appointed staff and information on next steps.
 - Accommodations procedures and forms.

Accommodations

Offering the ACT Plus Writing in students' high schools without cost will make the assessment available to all students. Most students will take the test; however, guidance regarding participation by all students will be provided by November 2012.

Students have three options for taking the ACT Plus Writing including ACT-Approved and State-Allowed Accommodations.

1. Without accommodations: Scores are reportable to colleges, universities, scholarship organizations, and the NCAA.
2. With ACT-Approved Accommodations: Scores are reportable to colleges, universities, scholarship organizations, and the NCAA.
 - a. For students with professionally diagnosed and documented disabilities who receive accommodations in school.
 - b. Applications and documentation are required. The window for requests is October 1, 2012 - January 25, 2013.

3. With State-Allowed Accommodations: Scores are not reportable to colleges, universities, scholarship organizations, and the NCAA.
 - a. For students who do not have a disability but regularly receive ACT-Approved Accommodations in school.
 - b. The window for requests is October 1, 2012 - April 3, 2013.

The following are links to specific information about accommodations:

ACT Accommodations Form

<http://media.act.org/documents/MT+Accoms+Procedures+April+Plus+Writing+with+SA.pdf>

ACT Online Training Webinar for Test Accommodations Coordinators (TACs)

<http://www.act.org/aap/video/training.html>

Resources

Test Preparation Resources for Students, Educators, and Families

<http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/ACT/12ACT-Free-resources-with-cover-sheet.pdf>

ACT Montana Site

<http://act.org/aap/montana/>

MontCAS Presents

Will offer an online class for educators on the ACT Plus Writing writing resources. The class will include examining and using ACT exemplars and rubrics and will provide opportunities for discussion and planning to prepare students for college and career ready writing.

- The start date of the class is the last week in October or the first week in November.
- Graduate credit through MSU or Renewal units will be available.
- Information about the class will be posted on the MontCAS Presents site. If you are interested, please check the site regularly.

http://opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/MontCAS/MontCAS_Presents.html#p7GPc1_1